



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

September 2009



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
RAMADAN [Islam] 22 Aug – 20 Sep	This is holiest period of the Islamic Year. During the holy month, Muslims are required to abstain from food, drink — including water — starting from 1.5 hours before sunrise until sunset. Smoking is also prohibited during these hours. On especially hot days, Muslims may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting.
MABON (Autumnal Equinox) [Wicca/Pagan] 22 Sep	Celebrations are generally limited to evening feasts and/or dances. If possible, Wiccans may seek permission to be excused from non-mission essential functions after duty hours.
ROSH HASHANAH [Jewish] 19 Sep – 20 Sep	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) begins at sundown on Monday, 19 Sep and ends at nightfall on Wednesday, 20 Sep. Orthodox Jewish personnel are required to abstain from work. This includes but is not limited to writing, carrying, shaving, cooking, doing laundry, touching anything electronic, money or credit cards and operating a motor vehicle or being driven in one. Jews may request time off to celebrate this holiday.
EID AL-FITR, a.k.a., End of RAMADAN, [Islam] 20 Sep	It is the first of the two major Muslim holy days (the second being Eid Al-Adha). This holy day is marked by prayers and feasting. Some Muslims may request time for prayer at appointed times during the day and celebratory feasts in the evening.
YOM KIPPUR, a.k.a., YOM TOV [Jewish] 27-28 Sep	This fast day is the holiest day of the Jewish year. The fast is observed in varying degrees of strictness among Jews. Some may abstain from all food and water until after sunset; others may observe modified fasts. Evening services are part of this observance. Jews may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

October 2009



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
SUKKOT, a.k.a., SUCCOTH [Jewish] 2 Oct – 10 Oct	Holy day services are held on the first (sundown on 2 Oct) and eighth days (Orthodox Jews observe the first two days as Holy Days). Orthodox Jews are required to abstain from work activities. This includes but is not limited to writing, carrying, shaving, cooking, doing laundry, touching anything electronic, money or credit cards and operating a motor vehicle or being driven in one.
DIWALI, a.k.a., DEEPAVALI [Hindu] 17 Oct	For some Hindus this holy day is celebrated with Multifaith fasts. On especially hot days, Hindus practicing the Diwali fast may seek permission to reduce physical training or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting.
SAMHAIN, a.k.a., HALLOWEEN [Wicca/Druid] 31 Oct	This is one of the eight major High Days of the Druid and Wiccan calendar. High Day observances include evening prayer vigils and ritual dances. Wiccans and Druids (any Neo Pagans) on evening work shifts may request time off for High Day observances.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

November 2009



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
ALL SAINTS' DAY [Catholic Christian] 1 Nov	Catholics are morally obliged to observe All Saints Day by participating in the celebration of the Eucharist and by abstaining from unnecessary servile work.
NATIVITY FAST [Orthodox Christian] 15 Nov – 24 Dec	Orthodox Christians are required to fast during this period. The fast traditionally entails fasting from red meat, poultry, meat products, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The fasting rules permit fish, and/or wine and oil on certain feast days that occur during the course of the fast. On especially hot days, Orthodox Christians may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting.
HAJJ [Islam] 25 – 30 Nov	Hajj or Pilgrimage-to-Mecca is required of every Muslim at least once in their lifetime. Muslims desiring leave in order to journey to Mecca (near Medina, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) during this period should be permitted to do so, duty permitting.
EID AL-ADHA [Islam] 27 Nov (depending on the calendar used)	It is the second of the two major Muslim holy days (the first being Eid Al-Fitr). This holy day is marked by prayers and feasting. Some Muslims may request time for prayer at appointed times during the day and celebratory feasts in the evening.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

December 2009



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
ROHATSU, a.k.a., BODDHI DAY; BUDDHA'S ENLIGHTENMENT [Zen Buddhism] 1-8 Dec	Zen Buddhists honor Buddha's enlightenment with an arduous retreat typically lasting a week. Adherents may seek permission to be excused from non-mission essential functions on 8 Dec or the week following.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION [Catholic Christian] 8 Dec	Catholics are morally obliged to observe the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception by participating in the celebration of the Eucharist and by abstaining from unnecessary servile work.
YULE (Winter Solstice) [Wicca/Druid] 21 Dec	It marks the beginning of many Pagan calendars. In many Pagan traditions, the concept of rebirth is expressed through the birth of a Divine Child. The celebration may include a vigil on the eve of Yule and the burning of the Yule log. Wiccans and Druids (any Neo Pagans) on evening work shifts may request time off for High Day observances.
HANUKKAH, a.k.a., FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, FEAST OF DEDICATION [Jewish] 11 - 12 Dec	It marks the recapture and rededication of the temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees. Evening observances in synagogues include the lighting of the eight-candle menorah. Although not obligatory, some Jews may seek permission to attend celebrations in the evening.
CHRISTMAS [Christian] 25 Dec	It marks the birth of Jesus Christ. Catholics may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.
ASHURAH, a.k.a., ASHOORA [Islam] 15 – 16 Dec	This two-day fast is linked with several Islamic observances. Some Muslims may request permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

January 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD [Christian] 1 Jan	This feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. Catholics may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.
EPIPHANY [Christian] 6 Jan	This feast recognizes the manifestations of the divinity of Christ. Catholics may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.
ASARAH BE-TEVET, a.k.a., TENTH OF TEVET [Jewish] 5-6 Jan	This fast observes the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem. Orthodox Jewish personnel are required to abstain from food from sundown on 5 Jan to sundown on 6 Jan. Duty permitting, Jews may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors.
ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS [Eastern Orthodox Christian] 7 Jan	It marks the birth of Jesus Christ. Eastern Orthodox Christians may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.
MAKAR SANKRANT [Hindu] 14 Jan	Makar Sankrant is one of the most important festivals of the Hindu calendar and celebrates the sun's journey into the northern hemisphere. Adherents may seek permission to be excused from non-mission essential functions to celebrate this holy day.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

February 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
IMBOLC, a.k.a., IMBOLG, OIMELG, BRIGID, BRIGANTIA , CANDLEMAS [Wicca/Pagan] 4 Feb	This is one of the eight major High Days of the Druid and Wiccan calendar. High Day observances include evening prayer vigils and ritual dances. Wiccans and Druids (any Neo Pagans) on evening work shifts may request time off for High Day observances.
ASH WEDNESDAY [Christian] 17 Feb	This holy day marks the beginning of Lent. Catholic and Liturgical Protestants participate in the imposition of ashes, symbolic of penance at a service. Catholics may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, duty permitting.
EID AL-MAWLID [Islam] 26 Feb	This day marks the birth of the Prophet Muhammad and is observed by prayers and fasting among some Muslims. Some Muslims may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

March 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
PURIM [Jewish] 27 Feb – 1 Mar	Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. This holy day is marked by feasting and drinking. A minor fast is required the day prior. Some Jews may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting and/or request time to participate in celebratory feasts in the evening. Note:**Note: the excessive consumption of alcohol occurs on this feast day.
HOLI [Hindu] 28 Feb – 1 Mar	Holi is an ancient festival which is referred to in the 7th century Sanskrit drama, Ratnaval. Celebrations include dancing, singing and roasting offerings on burning bonfires. Events typically take place in the evening hours. Celebrants may request time to celebrate this occasion.
OSTARA (Vernal Equinox) [Wicca/Pagan] 20 Mar	Celebrations are generally limited to evening feasts and/or dances. Wiccans may seek permission to be excused from non-mission essential functions after duty hours.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

April 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
PASSOVER a.k.a., PESACH [Jewish] 29 Mar – 5 Apr	Passover is one of the most important religious festivals in the Jewish calendar. This holy day marks the start of the season of Passover when Jews commemorate the liberation of Israel. Jews may seek permission to observe Passover Seder in the evening.
MAUNDY THURSDAY [Christian] 1 Apr	This solemn observance recognizes the night that Christ was betrayed. Catholics may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, usually celebrated in the evening.
GOOD FRIDAY [Christian] 2 Apr	This solemn observance recognizes the death of Jesus. Christians may seek permission to participate in a commemorative service.
EASTER [Christian] 4 Apr	It marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is one of the most important days in the Christian calendar. Christians may seek permission to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.
BELTANE (May Day) [Wicca/Pagan] 30 Apr	This is one of the eight major High Days of the Druid and Wiccan calendar. High Day observances include evening prayer vigils and ritual dances. Wiccans and Druids (any Neo Pagans) on evening work shifts may request time off for High Day observances.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

May 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
WESAK (Buddha Day) [Buddhist] 21 May	This is the most important of the Buddhist festivals and celebrates the Buddha's birthday, and, for some Buddhists, also marks his birth and death. Some Buddhists may seek permission to participate in festival observances.
SHAVUAT, a.k.a., FEAST OF WEEKS [Jewish] 18-19 May	This festival marks the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest. Some Jews may seek permission to attend celebrations in the evening.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

June 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
ALL SAINTS' DAY [Orthodox Christian] 14 Jun	This holy day celebrates the solemnity of All Saints. Orthodox Christians may seek permission to celebrate the Eucharist.
LITHA, a.k.a., MIDSUMMER EVE (Summer Solstice) [Wicca/Pagan] 21 Jun	This is one of the eight major High Days of the Druid and Wiccan calendar. High Day observances include evening prayer vigils and ritual dances. Wiccans and Druids (any Neo Pagans) on evening work shifts may request time off for High Day observances.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

July 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
ASALHA PUJA DAY (Dharma Day) [Buddhist] 25 Jul	This is one of the most important days of celebration in the Buddhist religion. Buddhist personnel may seek permission to participate in services.
TISHA B'AV [Jewish] 20 – 21 Jul	This solemn day of fasting commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem. This fast is observed with fasting and mourning from sundown to sundown. Orthodox Jewish personnel may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors.



Multifaith Calendar Highlights

August 2010



Holy Day	Impact to Personnel
LAMMAS [Wicca/Pagan] 8 Aug	This is one of the eight major High Days of the Druid and Wiccan calendar. High Day observances include evening prayer vigils and ritual dances. Wiccans and Druids (any Neo Pagans) on evening work shifts may request time off for High Day observances.
RAMADAN *start of* [Islam] 10 Aug – 9 Sep	This is holiest period of the Islamic Year. During the holy month, Muslims are required to abstain from food, drink — including water — starting from 1.5 hours before sunrise until sunset. Smoking is also prohibited during these hours. On especially hot days, Muslims may seek permission to reduce or be excused from physical training (including PT Assessments) or limit their time outdoors, duty permitting.